

REMARKS

Claim 47 has been amended to clarify its language. The term “plugging” has been replaced with the term “forming a plug” and references to “composition” have been replaced with “plug.”

The Examiner required restriction to one of four inventions found by the Examiner. The Assignee elects invention III, upon which claim 47 reads. Claims 41-46 and 48-58 have been cancelled.

The Assignee has offered several new claims, all of which depend directly or indirectly from claim 47 and highlight various aspects of the invention.

If inventions I or IV were elected, the Examiner further required election within each of three species found by the Examiner. Inasmuch as the Assignee has selected invention III, no further response is required. However, anticipating a similar election requirement with regard to the newly offered claims, the Assignee elects the following species of polymer: carboxymethylcellulose having from about a 0.65 to about a 0.95 degree of substitution; and partially hydrolyzed polyacrylamide having a degree of hydrolysis ranging from about 10 to about 20 percent. Claims reading on this species are: 47, 59-71.

The Assignee elects the following species of swelling agent: crosslinked acrylamide sodium acrylate copolymer. Claims reading on this species are: 47, 59-65, 67, and 69-71.

This is intended to be a complete response to the Examiner’s Action mailed December 13, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

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